



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

APR - 9 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document # 42087

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: FY 2002/03 FSTIP Amendment No. 11 – Council of Fresno County Governments
(COFCG)

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 11 to the COFCG 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated March 10, 2003. COFCG adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 2003-07, on January 30, 2003. This amendment adds MPO ID # FRE020166 – preliminary engineering for a 2.4 mile multi-use trail in the City of Selma. The amendment programs a total of \$10,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and local match for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002/03.

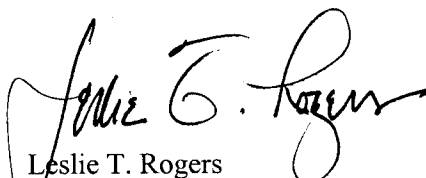
The COFCG determined that this project is exempt from conformity requirements under Section 40 CFR 93.126, reaffirming the conformity of the COFCG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this FTIP amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that FTIP Amendment No. 11 conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 and in accordance with January 2, 2002, guidance *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity* and the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*. This approval was made after consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to the *Transportation Conformity Rule*.

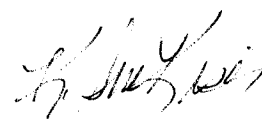
This letter constitutes approval and inclusion of COFCG's FTIP Amendment No. 11 into California's 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Finally, in consideration of the number of FTIP amendments we have received from COFCG to date, the federal agencies would like to meet with COFCG and Caltrans staffs to discuss options that would decrease the number of COFCG amendments we are processing. For further information, Leigh Levine of the FHWA Division office can be reached at (916) 498-5034. Leigh will be contacting Caltrans and COFCG staffs to further discuss our meeting request.

Sincerely,



Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration



For
Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

c:

EPA Region IX, Karina O'Connor
FTA Region IX, Paul Page
COFCG FTIP Binder
COFCG, Barbara Goodwin (bgoodwin@fresnocog.org)
COFCG, Rick Ballantyne
COFCG, Mike Bitner
COFCG, Jason Paukovits

Caltrans: (E-Mail)

Randy Steen, Federal Resources Branch
Jim Nicholas, Transportation Programming
Muhaned Aljabiry, Transportation Programming
Terry Abbott, Office of Local Programs
Kris Balaji, Office of Federal Program Management